

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Device for singulating overlapping flat mailings in an upright position in a path of travel with several singulating sections ~~(4, 5, 6)~~ arranged along the path of travel, with each singulating section ~~(4, 5, 6)~~ having conveyor belts ~~(3)~~ spaced apart from each other and above each other and transporting the mailings, and at ~~the~~ an opposite side of the path of travel retaining elements ~~(7)~~ acting on the mailings with a friction force and at a height between the conveyor belts ~~(3)~~,

~~characterized in that~~wherein

- ~~the~~ a speed of travel of the conveyor belts ~~(3)~~ in each singulating section ~~(5, 6)~~ is higher than the speed of travel of the conveyor belts ~~(3)~~ of the respective singulating section ~~(4, 5)~~ upstream in the direction of travel ~~in each case~~,
- individually mounted deflection rollers ~~(1)~~ of the conveyor belts ~~(3)~~ of both adjacent singulating sections ~~(4, 5 or 5, 6)~~ are arranged at different heights along a common axis ~~(2)~~ at each transition between the singulating sections ~~(4, 5, 6)~~.

2. (currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the conveyor belts ~~(3)~~ receiving the mailings have a higher coefficient of friction than ~~the~~ respective transferring conveyor belts ~~(3)~~ ~~in each case~~.

3. (currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein after the receiving conveyor belts ~~(3)~~ in ~~the~~ a receiving

area the mailings are arranged at vacuum chambers (10) pulling the conveyor belts (3).

4. (currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein at each transition between the singulating sections (4, 5, 6) ~~the~~a receiving area of the downstream singulating section has one conveyor belt (3) ~~more than the~~a transferring area of the upstream singulating section, ~~that wherein~~the center singulating sections (5) each have two conveyor belt areas (5a, 5b), with the drive belts (3) being coupled by means of a common wide coupling roller (11) and with the conveyor belt area (5a) receiving the particular mailings having one conveyor belt (3) ~~more than the~~a transferring conveyor belt area (5b) in these singulating sections (5).

5. (currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each singulating section (4, 5, 6) has a measuring device (9) in ~~the~~a receiving area for recording ~~the~~a speed of the mailings.

6. (currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~the~~a drive motor (12) of the conveyor belt (3) of each of the upstream singulating sections (4, 5) in the direction of travel can be switched off or reduced in speed if the mailing arriving in the respective downstream singulating section (5, 6) ~~in each case~~ has achieved ~~the~~a speed of ~~the~~a receiving conveyor belt (3), and the switch-off or reduction persists until a clearance between the mailings, specified for each singulating section, has been determined by means of a line of light barriers (13) arranged along the path of travel.

7. (currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 3 ~~and 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein additionally ~~the~~a vacuum of the vacuum chamber (10) of each singulating section (4, 5) upstream in the direction of travel can be switched off or reduced if the corresponding mailing arriving in ~~the~~a succeeding singulating section (5, 6) has reached ~~the~~a speed of ~~the~~a receiving conveyor belt (3), and the switch-off and or reduction persists until a clearance between the mailings, specified

for each singulating section, is determined by means of a line of light barriers (13) arranged along the path of travel.

8. (currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the retaining elements (7) are secured on an immoveable belt (7a) running along the length of all singulating sections (4, 5, 6).